



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Vernal Pool Field Observation Form

(7/99)

(For use with *Guidelines for Certification of Vernal Pool Habitat*)

For office use only.

1. Pool location

Town _____ County _____

USGS Quadrangle name _____

☐ SERIES 7.5' X 7.5'

☐ SERIES 7.5' X 15'

WRITTEN DIRECTIONS TO POOL: _____

THIS INFORMATION
MUST BE SUBMITTED

(USE ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY.)

Instructions

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT CERTIFICATION, REFER TO *GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATION OF VERNAL POOL HABITAT*.

PROVIDE ALL OF THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN BOXES 1-6. IF MORE SPACE IS REQUIRED, ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES. INCLUDE ALL REQUIRED PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTATION. SIGN THE FORM IN THE AREA PROVIDED ON THE REVERSE SIDE. **INCOMPLETE OR UNSIGNED SUBMISSIONS WILL BE RETURNED.**

THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS REFER TO EACH OF THE NUMBERED BOXES.

1. THE 7.5 X 7.5 SERIES HAS THE LEGEND "7.5 MINUTE SERIES" IN THE UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER ALONG WITH THE QUADRANGLE NAME. THE 7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES IS SO LABELED IN THE UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER AND HAS THE QUADRANGLE NAME IN THE LOWER RIGHT CORNER.

WRITTEN DIRECTIONS **MUST** BE INCLUDED.

2 INDICATE THE FIRST AND LAST DATES THAT THE POOL OR ITS BIOLOGICAL COMPONENTS WERE OBSERVED.

3. PART A AND B ARE FOR CERTIFICATION BY OBLIGATE SPECIES. PART C IS EITHER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (APPRECIATED) OR FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE FACULTATIVE SPECIES. IF CERTIFYING BY OBLIGATE SPECIES, PROVIDE A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE POOL HOLDING WATER AND AT LEAST ONE PHOTOGRAPH (OR AUDIO TAPE FOR CHORUSING) OF BREEDING ACTIVITY.

FOR CERTIFICATION BY FACULTATIVE SPECIES, PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE POOL HOLDING WATER AND PHOTOGRAPHS (OR TAPES) OF THE FACULTATIVE SPECIES AS REQUIRED. ADDITIONALLY, PROVIDE A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE POOL WHEN DRY OR OTHERWISE PROVE THAT IT HAS NO FISH.

2. Observation dates

First date pool/species observed _____

Last date pool observed _____ Last date species observed _____

3 A. Evidence: obligate amphibians

Indicate date of observation.

* = RARE SPECIES	COURTING ADULTS	SPERMATOPHORES	EGG MASSES (2+)	SALAMANDER LARVAE	TRANSFORMING JUVENILES
SPOTTED SALAMANDER					
* BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER					
* JEFFERSON SALAMANDER					
* MARBLED SALAMANDER					
UNIDENTIFIED MOLE SALAMANDER					
	BREEDING CHORUS	MATED PAIRS	EGG MASSES (2+)	FROG TADPOLES	TRANSFORMING JUVENILES
WOOD FROG					
* SPADEFOOT TOAD					

3 B. Evidence: fairy shrimp

DATE OBSERVED _____

3 C. Evidence: facultative organisms

Two or more must be documented. Indicate date of observation.

* = RARE SPECIES	DATE OBSERVED	ACTIVITY OBSERVED		DATE OBSERVED	ACTIVITY OBSERVED
BREEDING SPRING PEEPERS			PAINTED TURTLES		
BREEDING GRAY TREEFROGS			SNAPPING TURTLES		
BREEDING GREEN FROGS			PREDACEOUS DIVING BEETLE LARVAE		
BREEDING LEOPARD FROGS			WATER SCORPIONS		
BREEDING PICKEREL FROGS			DRAGONFLY NYMPHS		
BREEDING AMERICAN TOADS			DAMSELFLY NYMPHS		
BREEDING FOWLER'S TOADS			DOBSONFLY LARVAE		
* BREEDING FOUR-TOED SALAMANDERS			WHIRLIGIG BEETLE LARVAE		
RED-SPOTTED NEWT (ADULTS)			CADDISFLY LARVAE		
* SPOTTED TURTLES			LEECHES		
* WOOD TURTLES			FINGERNAIL (FRESHWATER) CLAMS		
* BLANDINGS TURTLES			AMPHIBIOUS AIR-BREATHING SNAILS		

Instructions (continued)

4. INDICATE THE PHOTOGRAPHS BEING SUBMITTED. LABEL, DATE, AND SIGN ALL PHOTOS.

5. MARK THE POOL CLEARLY ON ALL MAPS. THE POOL MUST BE CLEARLY DISTINGUISHED FROM OTHER WETLANDS AND BE RELOCATEABLE BY OTHERS. PROVIDE ANY MAPS THAT WOULD HELP SOMEONE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE AREA LOCATE THE VERNAL POOL IN THE FIELD.

6. THE FORM **MUST** BE SIGNED. UNSIGNED SUBMISSIONS WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION.

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

PROPERTY OWNER. PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT PROPERTY OWNER(S), IF KNOWN. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU SEEK PROPERTY OWNER PERMISSION PRIOR TO CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES.

RARE SPECIES. A PHOTOGRAPH IS NECESSARY FOR DOCUMENTATION OF RARE SPECIES HABITAT.

DESCRIPTION. PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION THAT WILL DISTINGUISH THE POOL FROM OTHER WETLANDS (BOULDERS, DEBRIS, TREE SPECIES, ETC.).

Optional information

Although the following information is not required for certification, it is useful to NHESP to possibly better protect the vernal pool, its habitat and species.

Property owner

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT LANDOWNER PERMISSION BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO COLLECTING CERTIFICATION DOCUMENTATION.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Rare wetland species

☐ Y ☐ N

WERE ANY RARE STATE-LISTED SPECIES OBSERVED USING THIS POOL?

☐ Y ☐ N

IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE RARE SPECIES INCLUDED WITH THIS FILING?

Description of pool and surroundings

DIMENSIONS: APPROXIMATE LENGTH

APPROXIMATE WIDTH

APPROXIMATE DEPTH

DESCRIBE DISTINCTIVE FEATURES (ROADS, STRUCTURES, BOULDERS, ETC.) WHICH ARE VISIBLE FROM OR NEAR THE POOL.

ARE THERE OTHER DISTINCTIVE FEATURES ABOUT THIS POOL (VEGETATION TYPES, ABANDONED VEHICLES, FOOT TRAILS, ETC.) THAT WOULD HELP SOMEONE RECOGNIZE IT?

4. Photographs

MUST BE LABELED, DATED, AND SIGNED.

☐

POOL HOLDING WATER

☐

OBLIGATE +/-OR FACULTATIVE SPECIES

☐

DRY POOL (REQUIRED FOR EVIDENCE 3C)

5. Maps submitted

☐

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP (REQUIRED)

AND ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

☐

DISTANCES/COMPASS DIRECTIONS

☐

PROFESSIONAL SURVEY

☐

LARGE SCALE TOPO

☐

OTHER _____

OPTIONAL EXTRA INFORMATION

☐

SKETCH MAP OF AREA

☐

ASSESSOR'S MAP

☐

GPS LONGITUDE/LATITUDE COORDINATES

6. Observer information & signature

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

e-mail _____

I hereby certify under the pains and penalties of perjury that the information contained in this report is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ Date _____

SEND COMPLETED FORM AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO:

NH&ESP
VERNAL POOL CERTIFICATION
MA DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
ROUTE 135
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581

All submissions and supporting documents will be retained by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. Information submitted on this form and other documents is part of the public record and is available to interested parties under the State Documents Request Law.